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ORDER BOOK
of
John Faucheraud Grinké.
August 1778 to May 1780.

(Continued from the October Number)

December, 1778.

Head Quarters, Sunbury. 9th: Dec^r. 1778

Sir.

You are to proceed with the Galleys under your command to Ossabaw or near Shannons Point; from thence one Galley is to be detached to take post at Warsaw so as to cover the Entrance up to Thunderbolt & another Galley to Tybee to cover the entrance into Savannah River. The Orders you give to the officers commanding the Galleys at the above-mentioned places are, to keep the most vigilant lookout, that no Surprise Shall happen, at the same time that it will be their duty to attac or annoy the Enemy should they enter into the Harbour whenever they can, in case they are inferior to the Galleys in force; They are by no means to sustain an attac against odds that may make the prospect of Success improbable in that case they are to Retreat to Augustine Creek, where they are to Remain until further Orders. I am Sir &c (Signed)

Robert Howe Maj: Gen':

12:

Head Quarters, Savannah.

Parole, Huger.

The Dep: Quarter Master Gen: is immediately to Report to Head Quarters the number & size of the boats in Public Service, & at what places they are: He is also to report tomorrow morning the exact State of the Stores of every kind in his Department. Each Officer actually in barracks is to be served with One Candle per night: The Dep: Quarter Master Gen': will give orders accordingly.

The Dep: Clothier Gen: & the Commissaries of Purchases Issues are to Report to Col^o Elbert as soon as possible the State of the Continental Stores & the exact Situation of their Several Departments.

Surgeons of Regiments also will report the quantity of Public Medicines they have rec^d., the quantity they have on hand & likewise what they have expended.

The Com^r: Officer of the Continental Corps of Artillery in the State of Georgia is to Report to Col^o. Elbert as immediately as possible the ordanance & other Stores in his Department.

18: Parole, Bull

The Commanding Officer in Camp will immediately by Express transmit to Head Quarters an exact Return of every Corps under his Command particularizing therein all Absentees, also a Return of the Fixed & loose Ammunition & other Stores in Camp.

The Commanding officer of Fort Morris will immediately transmit to the Com^r. Officer at Head Quarters an exact Return of all Ordanance & other Stores at Sunbury & Fort Morris.

Head Quarters, Savannah.

24: Parole, Lincoln.

A large Detachment of Continental Troops being expected in Town tonight, the Dep: Quarter-Master General is immediately to have the Barracks prepared to receive them & wood provided for their use.

The Artillery of every Cont: Corps now acting in this State, is to be under the Command of Col^o. Owen Roberts, who is to be respected & obeyed accordingly.

Complaints having been made that the Troops have suffered for want of wood, the Dep: Quarter Master Gen: will give the strictest Orders to prevent this from happening for the future & to be attentive that his Orders are Executed.

Orderly Hour at 11 oClock in the Morning
Night Orders

Any Person or Persons who coming into Town, shall upon being challenged give the word *Thunderbolt*, shall be permitted to pass the Guards & Sentinals of the Continental Troops.

25: Morning Orders

One Serg^t: one Corp: & 6 Privates are to mount a guard at the battery the East end of the Town immediately: They will Parade at Head Quarters and receive their orders from the Dep: Adjutant Gen^l.

The Dep: Quarter Master Gen: will immediately Report to Head Quarters the Number of Musquet & other Cart-ridges ready made.

Sir:

I am ordered by the general to direct you to move the 200 men, now under March, into Savannah as immediately as possible & that you will order the Remainder in Camp at Medway Meeting House to proceed without delay & encamp on this side of Ogéchee River leaving the Posts which have been established at Spencers Hill, Newport River & Colonels Island standing until further Orders.

The General thinks proper that a Guard of 25 or 30 men should be established upon the Hill over the Causeway on the other side of Ogéchee River. I am Sir &c: John F: Grimke Dep: Adj^t: Gen:

Col^o: Sam: Elbert Com^t.

of the Georgia Brigade.

P. S. The above Detachment to the Southward of the meeting House are to Retire to Sunbury, sending an Express to the Com^d. officer at Ogéchee, should they be compelled to Retreat.

Sir:

The arrival & anchoring of the Enemy in this Harbour makes it probable that an attack upon Savannah is intended & that the principal object of the Enemy is to possess themselves of this Town. The General therefore strongly recommends that the Inhabitants of the Town of Sunbury & of the Parish of S^t. Johns should not be disheartened by the Troops marching to the assistance of their fellow Citizens in Savannah & pledges himself to them that no Measure which can be with Propriety adopted for the Defence of Sunbury, shall be wanting on his part & that in case the enemy should move to the Southward & there is a probability of their relinquishing the present mode of

attac & translate it to Sunbury, the General will Endeavour by his rapid movement to the Southward to convince the Inhabitants how much He has at Heart the defence & protection of that valuable Town & Spirited Parish.

In the mean time He recommends that the Inhabitants of the Parish should form themselves into a Corps of Light Horse & by scouting in small Parties beyond our out-guards as far as the Alatomaha, or even beyond that River to prevent a surprise by a return of the Troops from Florida.

You will be pleased to have the above published to the Inhabitants of Sunbury & of S^t: John's Parish.

The Com^o: Officer of Artillery at Sunbury will immediately have the Cannon in the Fort & the Field Pieces put in proper order for service.

One Sub: One Serg^t: One Corp: & 9 Matrosses to be detached from the garrison at Sunbury with a Field-Piece to the Cause-way leading from the landing at Colonel's Island. They are to be encamped on this side of the Causeway & the Detachment at the Landing is to Retire to this body & defend the Post with the Utmost Vigor & as long as possible should they be attacked. They are to destroy the Causeway upon retiring & cut down the Trees so as to make the roads as impassable as possible still Skirmishing as they Retire. I am, Sir, &c,

John F: Grimké Dep: Adj^t: Gen^l:

To the Com^o. Officer at
Sunbury

Parole, Walton.

The necessity of Service requiring that the militia & Confederal Troops should act conjunctly in support of one Common Cause & under one Common Commander & the Command of the Militia being vested by the Executive authority of this State in the Com^o. officer of the Confederal Troops within this State, the General warmly recommends & earnestly Hopes that Harmony, Esteem, & Confidence may reciprocally actuate the bosom of each Corps: that no Contention may arise but what Results from the noble Emulation who best can serve their Country. The militia

in time of Peace are the Respectable Citizens of the State—in War the natural and valuable Soldiers of it. In either view they merit the Consideration & Respect of all but particularly of the army who are ordained to protect & defend their Persons, Property, Rights & Privilegdes. Not compelled by necessity to the Practice of Manoeuvres, should any of them happen not to be as Expert in performing as those whose Duty it is constantly to practice them, They merit not Derision for a Defect which nothing but want of Habit Occasions, nor must they receive it. It calls for the Friendly aid & delicately offered assistance of every officer. A Contray conduct will degrade those who practice it: & as all Jest & Ridicule Amongst Corps however well intended or Sportively begun have a strong tendency to lessen Esteem, weaken Confidence & destroy that Union upon which the Safety of this State depends: Every thing of this sort is absolutely forbidden & will be treated as disobedience of Orders.

Col^o. Walton commands the Militia as Col^o. Com^r: & is to be respected & Obeyed accordingly.

Col^o: Walton will Report immediately to Head Quarters the number of troops under his Command & the places at which they are posted (N. B. No Report ever was made)

The Com^r: officer of the Militia Corps of Artillery will immediately Report to Head Quarters the Strength of his Corps, The Field Pieces, Military Stores & all other Articles in his Department.

Com^r. officers of every Corps are to have their arms and counterments & all other matters in the best order possible for immediate Action.

The Dep: Quarter Master Gen: & Commissary of Issues of the Confederal Troops are to serve the Militia with wood, Provisions, & other articles usually served to the Confederal Troops.

Exact Provision Returns are to be regularly made by the Quartermaster of each Corps daily, previous to their being removed.

No Guns are to be fired in or about Town except on Duty.

Com^{rs}. of Brigades will make an immediate Return of their respective Commands.

An Orderly Serg: from Col^o: Walton's Command, from each Brigade of the Confederal Troops & from the Corps of Artillery to attend the General daily

Orderly Hour at 11 o'Clock in the Morning.

The Commissary is ordered to furnish the two Detachments of Troops, which arrived this day with a gill of Rum per Man.

26: December 1778. Head Quarters Savannah.
Morning Orders:

Field officers of every Corps are to give in the dates of their Commissions to the Dep: Adjutant Gen: immediately.

One Capt: 2 Sub^s: three Serg^s: & 30 Rank & File to be taken by Detachment from the Carolina & Georgia Brigades to be ready for immediate command they are to be furnished with 30 rounds of Ammunition & three days Provisions the officer commanding the Party will receive his Orders from the Dep: Adj: Gen:

One Serg^t: & 15 Rank & File to be warned for fatigues immediately & are to be taken by Detachment from the Carolina & Georgia Brigades: They will attend the Commissary of Slaves [? illegible].

The Dep: Quartermaster Gen: is immediately to Report the number of Waggon, Horses, Negroes, & boats to Head Quarters, which He has in Service at present.

Piquet

1 st : Brigade	2 ^d Brigade
1 Cap:	1 Sub
1 Sub:	1 Serg ^t
3 Serg ^{ts} :	6 R & F.
39 R & F.	

The Dep: Quarter Master Gen: will attend Head-Quarters at 10 o Clock every Morning for Orders.

Parole, Georgia.

Every officer of the Staff whether Civil or Military is to keep an orderly book in which they are to insert the daily orders which concern their Respective Departments

Sir. / You are to proceed to Rae Hall the Plantation of M^{rs}. Somerville about 6 Miles up the River, with the Detachment under your command where you will take post & place Sentinels upon the Mount near the River Side. You are to give notice when any of the Enemys vessels or boats shall appear off that Port by Express to the General. You will Secure yourselves also on the Land side from being surprised & should occasion require make a vigorous Resistance either by land or water. You will be careful to keep your Arms & Accoutrements in the best order possible for immediate Service. You will Examine all boats passing your Post & those which appear to be carrying away the goods of the Inhabitants or upon Public Service you will permit to pass. You will be careful to Restrain your men from doing any injury to the Property of the Inhabitants in general and particularly & of that Plantation, & you are not to suffer more than one man to be absent at a time from your command. I am Sir &c

To the officer com ^d . a detachment marching to Rae Hall	}	John F Grimké D: A: G:
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27: Morning Orders.

The Detachments of the Several Confederal Brigades now in Town are to Parade at some convenient place near the Barracks to day at 12 ô Clock. The Adj: General will mark out the Parade for this Purpose. All officers to attend.

Parole, Houston.

As the Continental Troops will probably be ordered to form an encampment to Day, They are therefore to Prepare themselves to March immediately upon Receiving Orders.

Congress having appointed L^t: Col^l: Ternant Inspector of the Confederal Troops in the States of South Carolina & Georgia, He is to be respected & obeyed accordingly. He is agreeable to the Directions of Congress to train & discipline the Troops in his Department in those Manoeuvres practised in the grand army, that one Uniform dicipline may prevail thro' the whole Army of the Ancient States.

The Inspector when visiting Barracks, Tents, Messes, Guards, Piquets & Posts is to be Considered & treated as an officer of the Day.

The Col^o: Com^t: of Militia is to make a return of the number of Troops now in Town under his Command & when other Detachments arrive, he is to immediately Report this arrival & number to the General.

Sir. / The General received your letter last night by Express & has been so exceedingly engaged in business that your dispatch could not be dismissed before to Day. He has sent you five pounds of Sulphur about 4 fathoms of Match rope & one ream of Cartridge Paper.

By your Return the General Observes you have thirty barrels of Gun-Powder in the magazine at Sunbury which He considers as amounting to three thousand weight, a sufficient quantity in his opinion for your defence until He could support you with the Army. The Detachments of Continental Troops advanced to the Southward of your Post have orders to Retreat to Sunbury should the Enemy attempt to Penetrate the Country from the Southward & the General leaves to your discretion when you shall withdraw those Detachments from their Posts, hoping at the same time that you will inform the General by Express when the above detachments have joined, the reasons for their retreat & such other important Circumstances as may occur. You will immediately have a return of Cap^t: Morris' Company made to Head Quarters by the first opportunity. The Governor has vested the Command of the Militia in the General & we are in a fair way of becoming so formidable by the Happy Union that we need not be apprehensive of an attac even in our present Circumstances; but should the Enemy delay their descent for only three days we shall at least double their number & be capable of a good defences both at Sunbury & at Savannah. As soon as the Troops expected up arrive you will be supported by a considerable body. The General would wish also to hear what number of Inhabitants can reinforce the Fort at Sunbury should it be attacked & if they have formed any scouting parties to the Southward. We have at present no saltpeter in Store, but as soon as any arrives which is daily Expected from

Charles-Town, you shall have some sent to you. The General hopes the flats which Capt: Melvin pressed in Sunbury have been sent round to O'géchee Ferry if not, He Requests you will Exert yourself to have this business Executed without delay.

The General has ordered the Dep: Quarter master General to send a deputation to his assistant to press whatever you may want. You will therefore apply to him. I am Sir &c. John F. Grimké D: A: G:

Major Lane or com^d.
officer at Sunbury.

Signals between the Galleys & Army.
By the Galleys to the Army.

A number of armed boats approaching. Three minute guns.

The Enemy's Fleet approaching. Two Minute Guns & three Minutes after two more.

The whole Fleet Standing to Sea. Five Minute Guns.

A part standing to Sea, leaving a Number behind. One Gun & three Minutes after two more fired quick.

By the Army to the Galleys.

For a Galley to come to Savannah. Three minute Guns.

For two Galleys. Two Minute Guns & three minutes after two more.

For three Galleys. Five Minute Guns.

For the Fleet. One gun & three minutes after two more fired quick.

For a boat with an officer. Two Minute Guns.

For Col^o. White. Three Guns fired quick as possible.

A cap^t: of the Day is to be appointed who is to visit the Night Guards: He will attend the Parade at Retreat Beating.

One Sub: three Sergt^s & fifty rank & file are to be immediately warned for fatigue.

The Commissary of Issues is to deliver a gill of Rum to each man who has been upon fatigue, the officer of which fatigue is to sign a Return of the same.

The Piquets will Parade at Retreat Beating at Barracks.

Detail of Piquet

1 st . Brigade	2 ^d . Brigade
1 Sub	1 Cap ^t .
3 Serg ^s .	1 Sub.
41 R & F.	1 Serg ^t .
	9 R & F.

For Fatigue

1 Sub.	
3 Serg ^s .	9 R & F.
41 R & F.	

28: Morning Orders.

The Army is to march precisely at 9 o Clock this Morning: the Baggage is to be immediately packed up & the Horses put to the Waggon.

The Com^d: Officer of Artillery will give immediate orders to prepare the train of Artillery to march with the Line; if it cannot be ready in time He will follow the Line as soon as possible.

The Dep: Quartermaster Gen: will have the Entrenching & all other Tools for Field-Use got ready for the Service of the Army: A waggon is to be immediately prepared to Receive them in which they are to be put.

One Sub: one Serg^t: & Six Privates are to attend M^r. Hornly immediately to take care of the negroes impressed in the Public Service & to give all possible assistance there-to.

Detail for this Duty

1 st . Brigade	2 ^d . Brigade
1 Lieut.	
1 Serg ^t .	
4 Privates	2 Privates

Detail for Fatigue

1 st . Brigade	2 ^d . Brigade
1 Cap:	1 Cap:
3 Lieut.	1 Lieut:
3 Serg ^t .	1 Serg ^t .
70 R & F.	14 R & F.

Head Quarters. Camp on Fairlawn 29 Dec^r 1778
 Gen^l Orders by Major Gen^l. Howe.
 Parole, Firmness.

The first Brigade is to be immediately told off into 16 Platoons of an equal Number of Files;—the odd Files to be formed in one Platoon on the right Wing of the Brigade to act as Light Infantry according to Exigencies—

Two Field Officers to be appointed to the Command of the right & Left Wing of both Brigades.

The 2^d. Brigade is to be told off into 8 Platoons of an equal Number of Files; the odd files to be formed on the left of the Brigade, in order to act as Light Infantry, as will be directed.

One Officer is to be appointed to the Command of every Platoon, composing a Brigade: Another Officer is to be placed on the left of the whole; & the rest are to fall into the rear of the Platoons as Bringers up, in order to preserve Order and regularity throughout the Lines.

Col^o. Huger will command the *Right* Wing of the Army, composed of the 1st. Brigade & Light Troops belonging to it—

Col^o. Elbert is to command the *Left* Wing, composed likewise of the 2^d. Brigade & Light Troops belonging to—

The Artillery of both Brigades & the Park to be posted before & during the Action as shall be directed, & defend their ground until further Orders.—The Artillery when ordered or forced to retreat is to fall into the road leading to the Western Defile, where Col^o. Roberts is to take as

advantageous a post as possible to protect the retreat of the Line.

The first Brigade after being told off, is to form in a close Column by platoons upon the right, & so remain until Orders to display by the Left.

The 2^d. Brigade is also to form in a close Column by Platoons upon the right & remain in that formation until Orders to display by the right.

Both Columns are to fire by Platoons as they display, and afterwards as will be directed by the Commanding Officers. They are likewise to defend this Ground by Fire & Bayonet until ordered or forced by Circumstances to retreat which will be done in the following manner: The Light Infantry of the 1st. Brigade to make the Advanced Guard & protect the retreat of the Artillery.

The Line is to march by the right, & the Light Infantry of the 2^d. Brigade to make the rear guard with a Field piece.

Col^o: Huger to lead the Column of retreat to the Western Defile & Col^o. Elbert to bring it up, & have the Charge of the rear Guard.

The 2^d. Brigade will support it by Detachments in case of Necessity. Ammunition Waggon are to march between the advanced Guard & Main Body—

In Case of a General Route or confused retreat the place of Rendezvous is on the other Side of the Western Defile near M^r. M^cGillevery's Gate. The 1st. Brigade is to draw up in Battle Array at the Entrance of the Western Defile in the rear or Flanks of the Artillery according to the Nature of the Ground in order to support the passage of the 2^d. Brigade & Artillery— The Light Infantry of both Brigades to join & make the rear Guard after the passage of the Defile. The 2^d. Brigade after having passed is to draw up at the Head of the Defile & take such Disposition on both sides of it as will be most likely to defend the Approaches of the Enemy on the Flanks.

The Militia are to defend the Fort & when no longer tenable to spike the guns, & destroy the Ammunition & retire to the place of Rendezvous.

Further Orders as Occasion requires.

[The Order book is silent in regard to the disastrous

battle which took place upon the 29th of December in which General Howe was defeated and severely criticised for the defeat: a court of inquiry was held, but Howe was acquitted. A full account of this battle is given by McCrady in his first volume on the Revolution in S. C., and an even better account in Jones' History of Georgia, vol. 2. The following letter, gives a personal experience during the battle, by John F. Grimké. It is in the Ms. Collections of this Society, (Laurens' Papers, vol. 25, No. 69)—Editor.]

Endorsed

Copy of Col. Grimké's
Letter to his Father
30 December 1778.

Ebenezer December 30th.

I have but just time to inform you that the Enemy landed yesterday morning at M^r. Girardeau's place about two miles from Savannah— A proper disposition was made of the Troops to engage them which accordingly began half-past 2 o'clock & the Enemy having possessed themselves of an advantageous spot of ground doubled our right flank & very nearly cutt off our retreat. Col^l. Elbert's Brigade are almost all of them taken prisoners & he himself escaped only by swimming a creek. This was the case with me also & the greatest difficulties occur'd in getting thro' the swamp. I lost my Horse, Saddle, pistols &c. the horse being so fatigued with the days labour that he had not strength to get out of the swamp, I was therefore obliged to leave him & his appurtenances.

We effected a retreat thro' a very heavy fire of the Enemy for near a mile, but I believe we have lost but few men kill'd I assure you it is wonderful how so many escaped as the Enemy were six times more than our number. We have been compelled to retreat to this place & are still proceeding towards Augusta the river being so high that we cannot cross ove at Zubly's ferry & we being so exceedingly

weakened that it is impossible to withstand them should they approach. I have the pleasure of informing that I escaped unhurt tho' I was in the midst of the heaviest fire—if you do not send us men we shall all be made prisoners.

P: S: We have ab^t: 100 Troops to the S^o.ward in the fort at Sunbury which will fall of course & the men become prisoners.

(To be continued)